various provisions of the Act. The State Governments are advised from time to time to strictly enforce the provisions of the labour laws. With regard to the average wages of beedi workers, both male and female, the minimum wages vary in different States between Rs. 38.80 and Rs. 132.50 for rolling one thousand beedis as fixed by the State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

**Jobs in industrial sector**

5342. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Industrial Sector shed more than 7 lakh jobs in two years ending 2000; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to ensure that industry generates enough jobs for employees in the factory sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The employment in the organized industrial sector reduced by approximately 2 lakh in the two years ending 2000.

(b) the growth strategy of the Tenth Plan lays emphasis on rapid growth of sectors, which are most likely to create high quality employment opportunities. In order to enable the poor to access the opportunities and to ensure consistency between the requirement and availability of skills, emphasis is being placed on skill development.

**Skill Development Fund**

5343. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Skill Development Fund has been created to prepare work-force in the wake of industrial restructuring;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is a proposal to do so and by when;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Study Group on "Skill Development, Training and Workers Education" set up by the National Commission on Labour has sumbitted its report to the Commission. The Commission is yet to take a view on the report of the Study group in framing its recommendations. The report of the commission is expected by 15.6.2002.

**Missing credits of ESIC**

5344. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation failed to trace the missing credits of Rs. 33.29 lakhs deposited in the Bank by more than 290 employers of various factories during May, 1988 to June, 1990;

(b) whether the missing credit was tracked sometime in October, 2001 and by then ESIC had suffered a loss of interest amounting to Rs. 45.19 lakhs; and

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has commented on this lapse on the part of the ESIC in his report for the year ending March, 2001 and if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The ESI Corporation while taking action for non-payment of contribution detected the missing credits for the period 5/88 to 7/90. The corporation has been pursuing the matter continuously with State Bank of India authorities because of which Rs. 24.94 lakh (approx.) of the missing credits has already been credited to ESIC Account. The efforts are on by the Corporation to get the remaining amount and interest in terms of the banking arrangement with the State Bank of India. The Director General, Audit (Central Revenue) has commented on the missing credits in his report.

**Rate of interest of EPF**

†5345. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees has recommended to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.